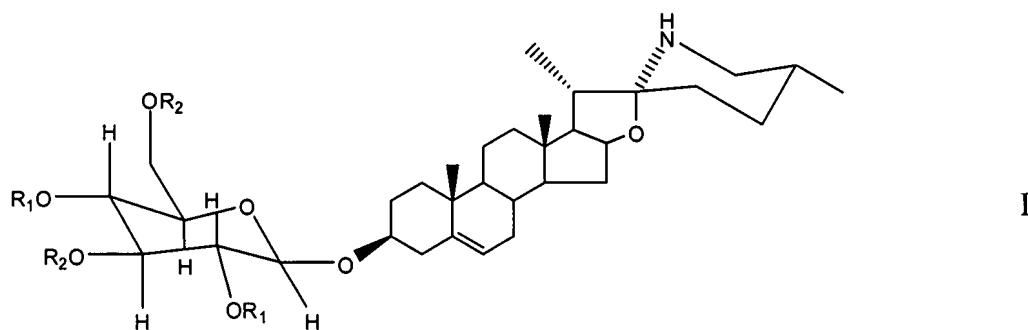


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following Listing of Claims.

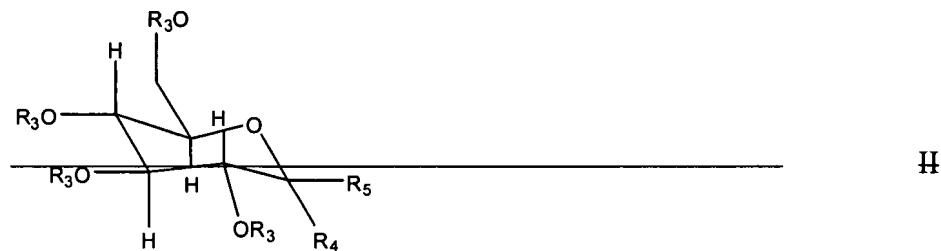
#### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A glucose-solasodine conjugate of the general formula I or a derivative thereof



wherein each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are the same or different and represents a benzoyl or a pivaloyl group.

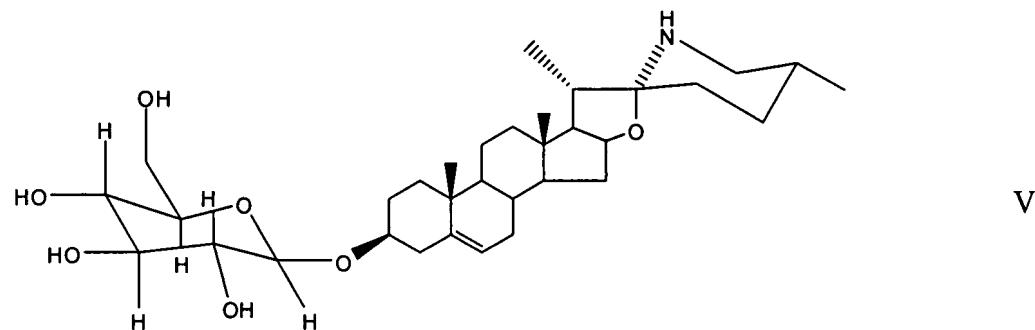
2. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the glucose-solasodine conjugate as defined in claim 1, comprising the reaction of solasodine with tetra-O-benzoyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl bromide, tetra-O-acetyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl bromide or tetra-O-pivaloyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl bromide; a glucopyranosyl donor of generic formula II



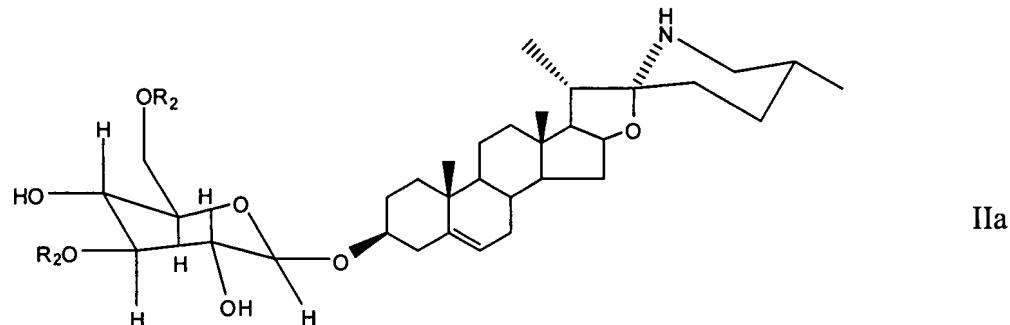
~~wherein each  $R_3$  independently represents a benzoyl, acetyl or pivaloyl group,~~

wherein  $R_4$  is halogen selected from Cl, Br or I and  $R_5$  is hydrogen or  $R_4$  is hydrogen and  $R_5$  is  $SEt$  or  $SPh$ ,

followed by optionally de-protecting the obtained glycoside to yield a compound of the formula V

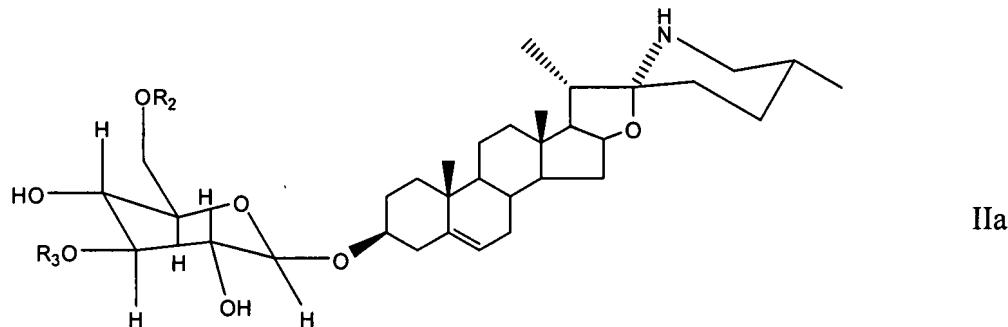


and reesterification of the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) to yield a compound of the formula IIa

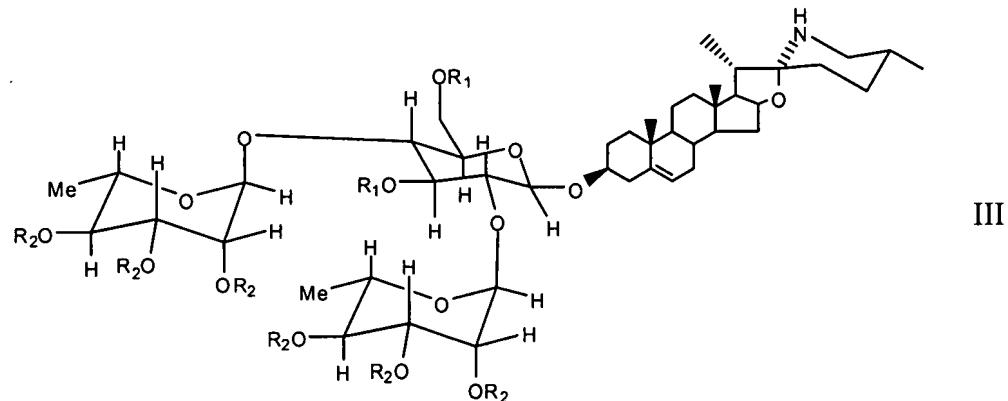


wherein  $R_2$  is a group selected from pivaloyl or acetyl.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of solamargine comprising the glycosylation of the diol of formula IIa,



wherein R<sub>2</sub> is defined as in claim 1, with tri-O-benzoyl- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl bromide or tri-O-pivaloyl- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl trichloroacetimidate an  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl donor to yield protected solamargine of formula III (1) which is de-esterified to yield solamargine of formula III (2)



(1) R<sub>1</sub>=Piv and R<sub>2</sub> = Benzoyl or Acetyl

(2) R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>2</sub> =H

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the glycosylation reaction is carried out in the presence of a promoter selected from silver trifluoromethane sulfonate (silver triflate), boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, trimethylsilyl triflate bromide, N-iodosuccinimide or dimethyl thiomethyl sulfonium triflate, silver trifluoromethyltriflate.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the protected glycoside is deprotected in methanol-dichloromethane solution by treatment with sodium methoxide, followed by neutralization with solid CO<sub>2</sub> or mild acid ion-exchange resin.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the most reactive hydroxyl groups (OH-3 and OH-6) are protected by reesterification with pivaloyl chloride in pyridine solution.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the protected solamargine is de-esterified by treatment with a base selected from sodium methoxide or sodium hydroxide in methanol-dichloromethane solution or a methanol-tetrahydrofuran-water mixture followed by neutralization with solid CO<sub>2</sub> or mild acid ion-exchange resin.